

What is claimed is:

1 1. A foldable electronic apparatus comprising
2 a first part;
3 a second part; and
4 an elastic sheet having a first end fixed to said first part, a second end fixed to
5 said second part, and a longitudinal axis extending from said first end to said second end, said
6 elastic sheet being foldable transversely of said longitudinal axis so that said first part is
7 pivotable with respect to said second part, said elastic sheet, when folded transversely of said
8 centerline, loading said first part away from said second part toward a longitudinally unloaded
9 position of said sheet.

1 2. The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 1, wherein said sheet is
2 curved transversely of said centerline at at least one of said first and second ends.

1 3. The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 2, wherein at least one of said
2 first and second parts comprises a curved slot which receives said at least one of said first and
3 second ends.

1 4. The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 2, wherein said sheet is
2 curved transversely of said centerline at both of said ends.

1 5. The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 4, wherein, when said sheet is
2 in said longitudinally unloaded position, said sheet is curved transversely of said axis from said
3 first end to said second end.

1 6. The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 5, wherein each of said first
2 and second parts comprises a curved slot which receives a respective one of said first and
3 second ends.

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2208
2209
2

1 10. The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 8, wherein said first angle is
2 substantially equal to said second angle.

1 11. The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 8, wherein each of said first
2 and second angles is between about 15 and about 30 degrees.

1 12. The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a
flexible printed circuit element extending from said first part to said second part adjacent to
said elastic sheet.

1 13. The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an
elastomeric sheath on said elastic sheet.

1 14. The folding electronic apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus is a
mobile telephone.

1 15. The folding electronic apparatus of claim 1, wherein said elastic sheet
2 comprises at least two layers with an electrical connection between said first and second parts
3 between said layers.

1 16. The folding electronic apparatus of claim 1, wherein, in said
2 longitudinally unloaded position, said first end is oriented less than 180 degrees from said
3 second end.